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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:
Uwe HEITMANN et al.

Appl. No.: 09/976,291

Confirmation No.: 1637

Filed: October 15, 2001

For: METHOD OF MAKING A
TOBACCO ROD

Art Unit: 1731

Examiner: WALLS, DIONNE A.

Atty. Docket No.: 31653-175416

Customer No.

26694

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

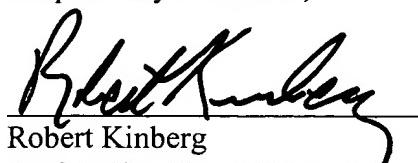
Status Inquiry Letter

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is filed to determine the status of the subject application. The Notice of Allowance was mailed on September 26, 2003. The issue and publication fees were paid on December 23, 2003. To date, we have not received the Letters Patent. Please advise the undersigned of the present status of the above-identified patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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